

RATIONALE

It is a generally accepted fact that the judicious application of Science and Technology (S&T) is a major factor in the transformation of economics; from poor to rich, undeveloped to developed or Third World to First World. It stands to reason therefore that a country should seek to popularize among its citizenry with a view to creating a culture of S&T. The Scientific Research Council with this very important mandate, has over the years implemented a number of projects and progress and staged events aimed at achieving this objective. One such is the Annual National Conference on Science and Technology conceptualized to provide a forum for scientists, technologists and other related and unrelated professionals and laymen to share their knowledge with and sensitize the nation to the importance of science and technology (S&T) and in so doing facilitate the application of the results.

The Conference in fact is the premier event in the sleuth of activities in the celebration of Science and Technology held November of each year.

This year will mark the twenty-second staging of the Conference under various S&T themes. The theme for the first was of a general nature followed by more focused ones in areas such as: Biotechnology for Development, Agricultural Development for the 21st Century, The Environment, Science and Technology in Industry, Food and Nutrition, Water, Agro-Industry: Competitive Edge through Science and Technology, Science and Technology for All, Science and Technology: An Investment, Managing Science and Technology in the 21st Century, Zero Waste Processing, Information Technology for National Development, Genes and Their Impact. Between 2001 and 2006 the general thematic focus has been on ***Science and Technology for Economic Development***. Under which the Conferences such as:

- Science and Technology for Economic Development: ***The Bio-Extraction Industry***
- Science and Technology for Economic Development: ***Towards Health, Wealth and Knowledge***
- Science and Technology for Economic Development: ***Technology Driven Agriculture & Agro-Processing***
- Science and Technology for Economic Development: ***Transforming Research Results and Traditional Knowledge into Viable Businesses***
- Science and Technology for Economic Development: ***Energy in the 21st Century***
- Science and Technology for Economic Development: ***Impacting the CSM***

In 2007 the focus was on “*Science and Technology Driving Youth Development*”. This year, quite importantly the theme is **Science and Technology Driving Industry and Commerce**. Focus will be placed on the use of all applicable and appropriate forms of science and technology in transforming the Jamaica economy landscape with a view to realizing “**The Islands’ Industrial and Commercial Revolution**”.

Discussions will be expected to generate recommendations for the way forward through new policy directions and regulatory framework as well as the development of infrastructure to support the use of science and technology for development.

This conference will feature an exciting state of presenters drawn from both Public and Private Sectors as well as individual entrepreneurs and academia. Overview papers and special addresses will examine and excite exploration of S&T use and potential for use in areas such as: Agro-processing, alternative sources of energy, nutraceuticals, organic farming, collage industries, hydroponics, ICT itself, employment creation and stemming the rural to urban drift.

Papers are published in the Proceedings which constitute an invaluable and expansive source of information for entrepreneurs, policy makers, planners and students.

The Young Scientist/Technologist Award initiated in 1990 is currently sponsored by the Jamaica Public Service. It is presented to a Young Scientist/Technologist conducting research in the area of the current Conference theme. Another special feature of the conference will be the live transmission (web cast) of some of the presentations accessible through the website of the Scientific Research Council at www.src-jamaica.org.